

Serial No. 10/606,192
Docket No. 633032-00002
Request for Continued Examination

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request continued examination of the above-referenced application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. A check in the amount of \$395.00 is enclosed to satisfy the necessary fee.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0139775 to Grafton in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,578 to Adamyan et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Grafton reference discloses a high strength surgical suture featuring a braided cover made from a blend of ultrahigh molecular weight long chain polyethylene fibers and fibers of one or more long chain synthetic polymers. However, the Grafton reference makes no mention of a braided structure incorporating gold thread, let alone a braided structure formed by braiding together gold thread and bioabsorbable thread.

The Adamyan et al. reference discloses a method for rejuvenating skin by implanting golden thread and bioabsorbable thread in a subdermal space below the rejuvenated skin. However, the Adamyan et al. reference makes no mention of forming a braided structure including gold thread and bioabsorbable thread braided together.

Nonetheless, the Office maintains that "it would have been obvious to combine the art of Adamyan with Grafton." (Advisory Action, p. 2).

Section 2143 of the MPEP sets forth the basic requirements of a *prima facie* case of obviousness as follows:

First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

It is submitted that none of the references cited by the Office suggest, let alone motivate, a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine the Grafton and Adamyan et al. references.